crore and cropped area of 89.47 lakh ha. Details of assistance released to the State during 1998-99 to 2000-01 is indicated below:—

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Central share of CRF released | Release of assistance from NFCR/NCCF |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 148.92 | 21.98 (NFCR) |
| 1999-2000 | 155.25 | 102.93 (NFCR) |
| 2000-01 | 196.00 | 85.00 (NCCF) |

CRF—Calamity Relief Fund
NFCR—National Fund for Calamity Relief
NCCF—National Calamity Contingency Fund

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertake necessary long term measures in the wake of national calamities.

**Production of pulses and oilseeds**

123. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds to ensure their availability, in the domestic markets at reasonable prices;

(b) whether Government propose to fix minimum support price to motivate farmers for their cultivation in larger areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Govternment of India is making all efforts to increase the production of pusles and oilseeds in the country. For increasing the production of pusles and oilseeds two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) and Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) are under implementation in 27 States UTs and 25 States respectively. The schemes envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seeds, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm

implements etc. Field demonstrations and farmers training are also being organised for the transfer of improved production & protection technology to the farmers field for increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds and ensuring their availability in the domestic markets at reasonable prices.

(b) and (c) Government of India has been announcing the Minimum Support Prices for pulses and oilseeds from year to year well before the commencement of Kharif and Rabi seasons to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce and also to motivate them for their cultivation in larger areas. NAFED is the Nodal Agency to carry out the purchase operations on Minimum Support Prices in case the market prices of pulses and oilseeds fall below the MSP. The MSPs declared for pulses and oilseeds for the two years are given below.

(Rs. Per Quintal)

| S.No. | Commodity | Year 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Pulses* | | | |
| 1. | Gram | 1015 | — |
| 2. | Arhar | 1105 | 1200 |
| 3. | Moong | 1105 | 1200 |
| 4. | Urad | 1105 | 1200 |
| *Oilseeds* | | | |
| 5. | Groundnut-in-shell | 1155 | 1220 |
| 6. | Rapeseed/Mustard | 1100 | — |
| 7. | Sunflower seed | 1155 | 1170 |
| 8. | Soyabean (Black)<br>(Yellow) | 755<br>845 | 775<br>865 |
| 9. | Safflower | 1100 | — |
| 10. | † Oria | 1065 | — |

| S.No. | Commodity | Year | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 |
| 11. | Sesamum | 1205 | 1300 |
| 12. | Nigerseed | 915 | 1025 |

**Suicide by cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh**

124. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the specter of suicides by the cotton growers of Warangal and Karimgunj districts of Andhra Pradesh is looming because of crop failure;

(b) whether it is a fact that some cotton growers have already taken the extreme step in last few months;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government are aware that the crop failure is attributable to spurious supply of seeds by some private companies in the State; and

(e) if so, what preventive and remedial steps have been taken to safeguard the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary steps in this regard. As per information received from the State Government in November, 2000, 14 farmers in Warangal district resorted to suicides during the current financial year after their crops, including the cotton crop, failed. The information pertaining to Karimgunj district is not available. The State Government reportedly provided input subsidy to the affected farmers on 50% subsidy basis not exceeding Rs. 500 per ha. and limited to 2 ha. per farmer.